

His comrades found him in a canal, face down, underwater, shrapnel in his brain.

For months, he lay in a coma. The next time I met him, in the hospital, he couldn't speak; he could barely move. Over the years, he's endured dozens of surgeries and procedures, and hours of grueling rehab every day.

Even now, Cory is still blind in one eye. He still struggles on his left side. But slowly, steadily, with the support of caregivers like his dad Craig, and the community around him, Cory has grown stronger. Day by day, he's learned to speak again and stand again and walk again—and he's working toward the day when he can serve his country again.

"My recovery has not been easy," he says. "Nothing in life that's worth anything is easy."

Cory is here tonight. And like the Army he loves, like the America he serves, Sergeant First Class Cory Remsburg never gives up, and he does not quit.

My fellow Americans, men and women like Cory remind us that America has never come easy. Our freedom, our democracy, has never been easy. Sometimes we stumble; we make mistakes; we get frustrated or discouraged. But for more than 200 years, we have put those things aside and placed our collective shoulder to the wheel of progress—to create and build and expand the possibilities of individual achievement; to free other nations from tyranny and fear; to promote justice, and fairness, and equality under the law, so that the words set to paper by our founders are made real for every citizen. The America we want for our kids—a rising America where honest work is plentiful and communities are strong; where prosperity is widely shared and opportunity for all lets us go as far as our dreams and toil will take us—none of it is easy. But if we work together; if we summon what is best in us, with our feet planted firmly in today but our eyes cast towards tomorrow—I know it's within our reach.

Believe it.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 28, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1684. An act to convey certain property to the State of Wyoming to consolidate the historic Ranch A, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2166. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3008. An act to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest

System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1684. An act to convey certain property to the State of Wyoming to consolidate the historic Ranch A, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2166. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3008. An act to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1963. A bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4441. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, an interim response to the Conference Report 112-705 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2013, Section 737; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4442. A communication from the President of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4443. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Registration of Municipal Advisors" (RIN3235-AK86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4444. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4445. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Executive Compensation" (RIN2590-AA12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23,

2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4446. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Golden Parachute Payments" (RIN2590-AA08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4447. A communication from the Director of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4448. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Species; Designation of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Below Friant Dam in the San Joaquin River, CA" (RIN0648-BC68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4449. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bond Premium Carryforward" ((RIN1545-BL28) (TD 9653)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4450. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sales-Based Royalties and Vendor Allowances" ((RIN1545-BI57) (TD 9652)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4451. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Computation of, and Rules Relating to, Medical Loss Ratio" ((RIN1545-BL05) (TD 9651)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4452. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014 Prevailing State Assumed Interest Rates" (Rev. Rul. 2014-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4453. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exclusion from Income of Payments to Care Providers from Medicaid Waiver Programs" (Notice 2014-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4454. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Current Refundings of Recovery Zone Facility Bonds" (Notice 2014-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4455. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-